

# VALUES UNDER SIEGE

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I have heard people say so many times how much harder it is to raise kids in today's society as opposed to how it was 30 or 40 years ago. To an extent, I agree. When I was a kid I was completely oblivious to the temptations that kids face today. Mine was a comparatively simple world where drugs, illicit sex and the need for personal safety were foreign concepts and not even discussed within my family.

Wholesome values and virtues have been under attack for the last several decades and in particular, since the introduction of TV, the Internet and other forms of media. Gone are the days when a movie would allow our imaginations to lead us to what was going to happen next. Now we get the whole nine yards, close up, in 3D and splattered all over the screen in blood curdling color. From every side the media is assaulting the values upon which we, and our parents before us, were raised. The whole concept of right and wrong is being challenged. In fact, my husband has been shocked that some students seem to display absolutely no conscience at all.

Yet there is hope. Just when it seemed unrealistic to expect teens to abstain from sex before marriage, there rose up a large group of kids who declared that they would stay pure until their wedding day. How did that happen? Although it appeared to be initiated by the kids themselves, it was adults who nurtured the value within them in the first place to make the choice they did. The adolescents were also influenced by teen role models such as Rebecca St. James, a Contemporary Christian music artist openly campaigning for purity till marriage.

As parents we can still have the influence over our children that we thought had been undermined by the lowering of community standards. The following comments may help you establish or re-establish our positive parental influence, especially in our kids' developing years. We need to create strong values as quickly as possible and train our kids to adopt them. We need to praise and encourage our children and be positive role models so that our kids will want to follow our example. We need to explain why these values are important and when our kids see the reason behind the values they are far less likely to make impulsive decisions based on what feels good at the time. Of course kids need to be aware of the temptations around them. By being proactive and discussing the issues with your children, you are giving them the resources they need to make the right decisions in the future. This will help them avoid defaulting into 'going with the flow'.

You need to monitor the amount of media exposure your kids are getting and talk about the kinds of movies that are acceptable or not good to watch, and

give reasons why. By monitoring your children's friends, your kids' attitudes and the atmosphere in your home you are more likely to head off negative situations before it is too late.

Discussions beat arguments any day. Make sure you nurture healthy lines of communication in your home. Kids don't always want your opinion. They just want to talk. If you don't give them the opportunity to discuss and work through issues, they are less likely to learn to problem solve by applying the values you instilled in them long ago. Use your influence through wise guidance and avoid constantly telling them what to do.

When you as a family make a stand for what is right and good, you are greatly assisting in the preservation of values in the community around you. You are also creating a rich legacy for your children's children.

If you have any comments or questions on this subject, please do not hesitate to contact us at [sally@forefrontfamilies.org](mailto:sally@forefrontfamilies.org). We invite you to also check out our website at [www.forefrontfamilies.org](http://www.forefrontfamilies.org) and our blog site at [www.forefrontfamilies.blogspot.com](http://www.forefrontfamilies.blogspot.com) for further assistance.